PM'S visit to Colombo

4532. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister visited Colombo in March, 2005 to discuss bilateral issues;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome of his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Security Council Seat

†4533. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have refused to accept permanent membership of United Nations Security Council without veto power;

(b) if so, the reaction of other Nations of G-4 Group in this regard; and

(c) the names of the countries who have supported India's stand in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The issue of the reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council has been under discussion at the United Nations for several years. In view of the complexities and the diverse perceptions on the specifics of such reforms among member States, a decision on this issue has not been reached as yet. Regarding India's position on the issue of veto, Hon'ble Prime Minister has stated our position on the membership of the UN Security Council in the Parliament, which is that "there is no confusion regarding our position on our candidature for a Permanent Seat on the Security Council. At this point, all Permanent Members have veto powers. We are a candidate. This issue may arise in respect of any new Permanent Members who may be admitted. Our fundamental position remains clear. We do not believe there should be any discrimination in the Security Council and

† *Original notice of the question was received in Hindi*

there should be no distinction between Permanent Members who have the veto and those who don't."

(b) Discussions on the issue of UN Security Council reform are underway in the UN among member States including G-4 countries.

(c) There is a steady accretion of support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Several countries have expressed support for India's candidature either in the UN or in the context of bilateral exchanges. Such support is expressed in different forums and forms and it is, therefore, difficult to give a definitive number on countries which have specifically supported India.

Foreign Minister's Myanmar visit

4534. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of mutual interest discussed with Myanmar when he visited Myanmar recently;

(b) whether Myanmar has agreed to help India in fighting insurgence and terrorists activities on Indo-Myanmar border; and

(c) the reasons for Myanmar's cancelling the Gas pipeline deal just a few days before his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Minister of External Affairs, Shri K. Natwar Singh paid an official visit to Myanmar from 24-27 March 2005. During the visit, wide-ranging discussions were held on all aspects of the bilateral relationship including cooperation in counter-insurgency, cross-border infrastructure development projects, assistance in the field of science and technology, energy cooperation and bilateral trade. In addition, both sides exchanged views on politico-economic developments within their respective countries and on regional and sub-regional issues of mutual interest.

(b) The Myanmar side reassured EAM of its commitment not to permit its territory to be used for insurgent activity against India and